(a) whether a 16th century castle in Kargil, a 17th century monastery in Ladakh, a historic civic centre in Shimla and a palace in UP figure in the list of 93 endangered heritage sites across 47 countries compiled by World Monument Fund;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether these monuments are in Government's list for heritage monuments; and

(d) if so, how the Government propose to protect and preserve these sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The World Monument Fund (WMF) is private trust based at New York (USA). It has no connection with UNESCO. It funds conservation, restoration and development of monuments worldwide. In its publication "2010 World Monument Watch", it has indicated that the following 4 sites in India are at risk out of 93 such sites identified by the Fund across 47 countries:

(i) Chiktan catsle, Kargil (Laddakh)

(ii) Dechen Namgyal Gonpa, Nyoma (Laddakh)

(iii) Historic Civic Centre, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)

(iv) Kothi, Qila Mahamudabad.

None of the above sites are under ASI protection.

(d) Does not arise.

Change in monsoon

1559. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state whether there has been significant change in the pattern of the monsoon in the last decade, in any of the Meteorological divisions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): The rainfall pattern of the monsoon, both at the country level and meteorological sub-division scale, generally shows great deal of year to year variation of the total seasonal quantum and active/weak spells (duration and frequency) of rainfall within the season. Analysis of the rainfall data for the recent 10-year period 2000-2009 does not signify any major characteristic change for any of the meteorological sub-divisions.

However, a marginal decreasing trend in monsoon rainfall over Himachal Pradesh (-3.7%) and small increasing trend over Saurashtra and Kutch (7%) and Lakshdweep (4.3%) are observed.

Visit of Australian Prime Minister

1560. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: